

ARC Purchases McKownville House

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GUILDERLAND — The Albany Association for Retarded Children has purchased the McKownville home where it plans its first residence in its Albany Community Residence Program. The program is scheduled to start Oct. 1.

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Eight retarded adults, some of whom now live at the Oswald D. Heck Developmental Center, Niskayuna, will live in the residence at 1457 Western Ave., and there will be two other beds available for temporary use.

The ARC plans an open house sometime before the scheduled Oct. 1 opening "to show people we're supportive of the community and will contribute to the community," Michael Dolan, assistant to Leslie Rivkin, the ARC's executive director, said yesterday.

The adults who will live at the residence will be screened carefully for their ability to cope with living in such a residence, Dolan noted.

Manuel Aronson sold the house Aug. 10 to the association, he said yesterday, and he will move to a smaller house in Albany this weekend. In February, he told the Gazette the McKownville home now was too large because his children had grown.

Aronson, who works for the Rensselaer County Mental Health Center at Samaritan Hospital, moved with his family into the McKownville house in 1960, he said.

The 14-room house has five or six bedrooms, a suite of offices and a separate apartment, Aronson said. In February, Riv-

kin said the house needs very few changes as a community residence.

The ARC paid "in the vicinity of \$80,000" for the house, Dolan said yesterday.

Most of the adults who will live at the McKownville house now are in institutions and would be supervised closely, both in and outside the house, since they would be unable to use public transportation by themselves.

A van will take them to day programs at the ARC's headquarters at 155 Washington Ave., Albany.

The Community Residence Program provides these residents with a chance they previously did not have to live outside an institution and in a community, and the program benefits both the residents and the community, the Albany ARC's bulletin indicates.

The community residence provides full-time programming to help the residents progress toward as much independence as possible within a home-like environment, and the program helps the ARC reach its goal of helping these residents become as self-sufficient as they can, according to the ARC bulletin.

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A change in state law allowed the ARC to request permission from Guilderland Town Supervisor Carl J. Walters to occupy the house as a single-family occupant, Rivkin and Terry Kennedy, the ARC's community residences director, had said in February.

Before the law changed, zoning hearings and other public hearings were required.